

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 19, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) as not showing every feature specified in the claims. In particular, the Office Action states that the hair dryer must be shown, or canceled from the claims. It is noted that a hair dryer is illustrated in Figure 10 of the drawings. The basis for the objection is therefore not apparent. If the objection to the drawings is maintained, the Examiner is requested to explain why the illustration in Figure 10 is not considered to be sufficient, and what additional features must be shown to comply with the rules.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13-16, 18, 19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by the Curtin patent. All other pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 on the basis of the Curtin patent. To emphasize the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art represented by the Curtin patent, features recited in some of the dependent claims have been incorporated into independent claims.

For example, Claims 1 and 14 recite that the retainer is arranged at the second opening of the accessory body, i.e. the opening remote from the end at which the accessory is connected to a hair dryer. This feature was originally recited in Claim 4, which was rejected over the Curtin patent as being "an obvious matter of design choice." By positioning the retainer at the front end of the accessory, in accordance with the invention recited in claims 1 and 14, the substrate is retained at a position that is distant from the

heating element in the hair dryer. With such an arrangement, the risk that a substrate and the fragrance stored therein will overheat or catch fire is reduced. The Curtin patent does not discuss the possibility of such a risk, and specifically does not teach or suggest that the pad 20 should be positioned at the front end of the nozzle 1. For example, as depicted in Figures 1 and 2, it can be seen that the pad 20 is positioned in the middle of the nozzle 1, such that it is proximate to the effluxive end 101 of the hair dryer when the nozzle is attached thereto.

NOT IN DISCLOSURE

Claims 1 and 14 further recite that the substrate receives an oil-based scented medium. As further recited in claims 12 and 24, this scented medium is an aromatic oil. The use of an oil-based scented medium offers the advantage that it normally does not evaporate at room temperature. Consequently, the medium does not dissipate when the hair dryer is not in use, and waste is therefore minimized. In contrast, the Curtin patent discloses the use of a perfume, which it describes as being "readily evaporative." (Col. 3, lines 51-52).

Another distinguishing feature of the invention is the use of a substrate made of a ceramic material. This feature was originally recited in Claim 7, and now appears in new independent Claims 27 and 29. The use of a ceramic material for the substrate offers the advantage that such material is durable under the conditions of repeated heating and cooling. (As such, the substrate can be refilled with a fragrance, without the need to replace the entire substrate.) In the context of the present invention, the substrate is designed to be re-usable, rather than disposable, (and therefore much more environmentally friendly). The

replacable substrate


Curtin patent discloses the opposite, namely that the pad 20, and possibly also the frame 21, are disposable (col. 7, lines 3-7).

Another claimed feature of the invention resides in the fact that the substrate is adapted to withstand a temperature of at least 45°C. See, for example, Claim 8. In the context of the present invention, where the substrate is designed to be refilled and reused, the ability to withstand temperatures of at least 45°C ensures its durability in an environment where it is repeatedly heated and cooled. In contrast, since the pad 20 of the Curtin patent is intended to be disposable, the ability to withstand higher temperatures is not as significant a concern.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the features of the invention recited in the pending claims are neither anticipated, nor otherwise suggested, by the Curtin patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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